

November 11, 1963

Professor Harry Levin
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Levin:

I am the father of one of your students this year and would like to have your comment on what I believe are two bawdy puns of Shakespeare which have not, so far as I can determine, ever been published or commented upon. They involve the word "bunghole" in Hamlet, V:1:210, etc. and the word "bung" in Henry IV, Part II, II:4:136. I believe each is intended primarily to refer to "ass hole" and only incidentally to a barrel bung.

The use of "bunghole" results, as I see it, in a change in the meaning of lines 219, 220 following the first citation so that the "wind" means "flatus", and "clay" means "feces". Both Alexander's dust and Caesar's clay both are therefore alluded to as feces. The barrel meaning is pointless, only a justification for the pun.

The use of "filthy bung" is primarily bawdy and is warped to mean a cutpurse. I find no other use of "bung" meaning "cutpurse", only when expanded to "bung nipper", etc. "Bung" only means "pocket" when it stands alone. The word "filthy" would not be applied as an adjective if bung was to mean only cutpurse or purse.

My basis for these conclusions is the translation, in 1611, in The Dictionary of the French and English Tongues, by Randle Cotgrave, of the French word "Cul de Cheval" (Sea Anemone) as "a small ugly fish resembling a man's bung-hole". This shows "bunghole" meant "ass hole" in Shakespeare's time. "Bung" and "bunghole" are interchangeable when used in a bawdy sense.

-2-

Professor Harry Levin

November 11, 1963

All this has come about in my 15 year research for the true meaning of the New England Americanism "bungtown" and thus I had to work on Shakespeare along the way.

Will you be nice enough to let me know if you think I have added something or did you know this already?

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN
atb

HARVARD UNIVERSITY • CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE • 402 BOYLSTON HALL

November 18, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Secretary
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

With regard to the verbal point you raise in your letter of November 11th, it is one which has escaped the eye of Eric Partridge, whose Shakespeare's Bawdy is the usual compendium for significances of this kind. Nonetheless, I believe that your surmise is justified; that there is at least the possibility of a metaphorical double-entendre in the two lines you cite; and that, if it gives you any satisfaction, you may well claim it as your contribution to Shakespeare scholarship.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Harry Levin

Harry Levin
Irving Babbitt Professor of
Comparative Literature

HL:eaf

November 27, 1963

Professor Harry Levin
Harvard University
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Levin:

Thank you for your note indicating that my surmise appears to be justified as to the interpretation of "bung" and "bunghole" in Shakespeare.

I wrote to Eric Partridge and he agrees to the suggested meaning and will insert it in his next editions of "Shakespeare's Bawdy" and his various slang dictionaries.

I believe I am in line for one of the "lowest" distinctions in Shakespeare research.

Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

February 25, 1980

Clarkson N. Potter, Inc.
1 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Gentlemen:

Please send this letter to the editor of The Annotated Shakespeare.

I would like to suggest two changes in the footnoting of The Annotated Shakespeare (N.Y. 1976). One is a change. One is an addition.

In Henry IV Part II Act II Scene 4 the footnote 138 in my opinion should not interpret "bung" as meaning pickpocket. The prior expression "cut purse" does refer to pickpocket and the use of "bung" is a base for a transitional pun. Bung primarily is used to refer to anus in conjunction with the word "filthy". The word "bung" has a double meaning, namely "purse" and calling Pistol a filthy "asshole". I enclose my explanation as published in 1976. I refer you to p. 73 of the 1968 revision of the late Eric Partridge's Bawdy Shakespeare where he includes part of my preliminary conclusions before I published them in 1976. I enclose a photocopy of the Partridge reference and the detail as published in 1976. You may wish to make a change based upon them if you agree.

The second change I suggest is in annotating the gravediggers scene in Hamlet to explain the true meaning of the classical reference portion as a coarse comic episode. You now have no annotation on the word "bung-hole". You do explain loam but not the passage as a whole. This is also covered by the same enclosed material. I don't think the full meaning has ever been understood by readers.

I will be glad to be of further help if you care to consider the suggestions above expressed.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

jah

Encls.

Prof. Louis Marder
University of Miami
Coral Gables, Fla 33124
Dear Dr. Marder

March 16, 1981

In accordance with my recent conversation with you I am enclosing a photocopy of my 1976 article on Counterfeit and Bungtown Halfpence (only relevant portions). It includes the research to determine what the meaning of the word Bungtown (an exclusive American slang term) was and its uses. In the course of this numismatic work I uncovered the basis for the use of the words, "bung" and "bung-hole", as used once each by Shakespeare. I had a pleasant correspondence with Eric Partridge about the matter and he included the theory I had in the 4th edition of Bawdy Shakespeare. I am enclosing his reference. He did not include my bung-hole conclusions although he agreed with it.

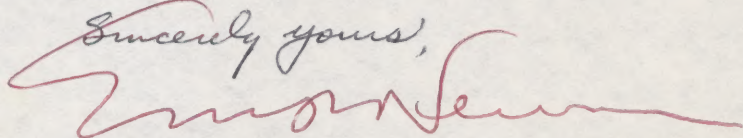
My reason for writing you is that I have never had my conclusions published in any literary magazine or any concordance. I have written to a few people with that thought but have never received ^{affirmative} reply. I have never had anyone challenge any of the conclusions. I believe it is too much of a shock for scholars to believe that they have been amused at the gravedigger's poems, etc in Hamlet and never knew the real meaning of the related portions.

I have since discovered* a corresponding bawdy pun on the use of "cul'd" in relation to "posterior" in Shakespeare. I mention "cul" in my writing and find that Shakespeare didn't miss that opportunity for a pun to go by him and punned the word "cul" just as he punned with bung and bung-hole. (See Partridge's inclusion of the matter under "posterior")

Your recent publicity in our newspaper prompted me to call you and I am sending you a copy of it.

If after you read my conclusions you think that they should be worked into the concordance or published in something literary I will gladly cooperate. Let me know your thoughts as to what should be done. I feel Shakespeare would feel slighted if after all these years one of his cleverer puns went unappreciated.

Sincerely yours,



* become aware of

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St Louis Mo 63105

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resid tel 314-727-0850

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*This is a decrease of \$2,006 or 1.50% over the same period last year.

Submitted by: Frank Ricca, Jr.

Date: January 6, 1981

kr

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

June 29, 1981

Prof. Louis Marder
University of Miami
Coral Gables, FL 33124

Dear Dr. Marder:

On March 16, 1981 I wrote you with respect to a clarification of two portions of Shakespeare involving the words "bung" and "bunghole". I presume you received it, but have not received any comment from you as to how this can be worked into the concordance. Would you be nice enough to follow up on the matter and let me know where it stands. If, however, you sent it off to someone else and did not retain a copy of it I will gladly furnish you an additional copy.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman

jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

September 21, 1987

Dr. Barbara Mowat
Folger Shakespeare Library
201 E. Capitol Street
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Dr. Mowat:

In accordance with my telephone conversation with you I am submitting for publication in your quarterly the article I have just completed entitled "Keep Up Your Shakespeare".

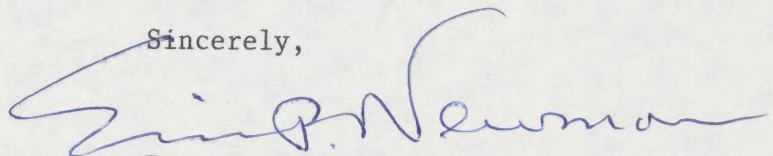
I look forward to any suggestions for improvement which you or your associates may care to make. These suggestions can include changes in text, in title, addition of subtitles, additional footnotes, etc.

I believe your librarian was going to check the English translations of Urquhart I use against the 1694 edition which you have. If you think we ought to check the 1653 edition or a copy of it perhaps it can be located. I do not have the date of the death of Eric Partridge and perhaps you do.

If you need information about my background please let me know or use Who's Who in America.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Eric P. Newman

EPN/pd

SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY
201 East Capitol Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 544-4600

Date 9-25-87

We are in receipt of your manuscript as of 9-24-87
and it is being processed for review.

Thank you for your interest in Shakespeare Quarterly.

Editorial Assistant
SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY

SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY

Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C. 20003

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105





Washington

WASHINGTON · UNIVERSITY · IN · ST · LOUIS

Department of
Romance Languages and Literatures

Sept. 27, 1987

Dear Mr. Newman,

I read your paper with great pleasure.
I know the "Shakespeareans" will find it quite
interesting, too. I wrote a few comments.
Hope they can be useful.

Good luck with the publication.

Cordial regards,

Colette Winn



Washington

WASHINGTON · UNIVERSITY · IN · ST · LOUIS

Department of
Romance Languages and Literatures

Dear Mr. Newmiller,

Sorry I let you down for your project. but I had
to have surgery a few weeks back & I am recovering
very slowly.

Anyway here are the pages you wanted.

Respectfully,

Collette Wilson



THE FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

Administered by the Trustees of Amherst College

Date: 29 September, 1987

Dear Mr. Newman:

This is an acknowledgement of your request for photographic material of Folger Library item number(s):

ACC 161817 THE WORKS OF F. Rabelais M.D. 1694

☒ Prepayment is required. A letter confirming payment from the library or institution is acceptable. Allow four to six weeks after receipt of prepayment for delivery on most orders. We estimate the cost for:

negative microfilm \$ 5.00 min w photographs _____
positive microfilm _____ color slides _____
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xerox copyflo from microfilm _____
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plus English in London
Comments: We also own an edition of the WORKS of Rabelais published in 1664. Please refer to the NUC Catalog to research the earlier edition. There are some editions which are not dated; otherwise, 1664 is the earliest listed.

Sincerely,

A. Muchoney
Anne D. Muchoney
Photography Department

*Barbara Massello
Wash Univ Ref Lib
889 5410*

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 6, 1987

Ms. Anne D. Muchoney
Photography Department
Folger Shakespeare Library
201 E. Capitol Street, S.E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Dear Ms. Muchoney:

Thank you for your 29 September 1987 communication on your Rabelais holdings. Since the 1664 edition of Rabelais is the English translation of Urquhart, it would be better for me to use it than the 1694 edition. Please send a microfilm printout of Chapter XIII of Gargantua and the title page to me.

A check for \$10.50 is enclosed. I have already submitted an article to the Quarterly and will amend it to cite the data you are furnishing.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Oct 14, 1987

Aaron D. Edison
Adams House G42 Harvard College
Cambridge Ma 02138.

Dear Aaron:

Coincidence - serendipity - call it whatever you wish, but how did you find the excerpt you sent. I was asking for Chap XIII of Gargantua (which the Folger Shakespeare Library now found in the original) and you sent me Chap XIII of Book 5 of Pantagruel. Both are bungloled, but I didn't know about the latter. I am now getting the original French for it. What a strange coincidence. The world is full of bungloles! Don't spill the beans*.

Er + I are off to Camerouns this week. Thanks

Eric

* Beans as you know, are a musical fruit - the more you eat the more you toot.

10/6/87

E. —

More beans For
your bung-hole.
Next Assignment?

XO,
A.

P.S. Happy 5748!

A.D.E. / ADAMS G-42 / HARVARD COLLEGE / CAMBRIDGE, MA / 02138



MR. ERIC P. NEWMAN
6450 CECIL AVE.
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 16, 1987

Folger Shakespeare Library
201 E. Capitol Street S.E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Gentlemen:

I wish to thank your photographic department for fulfilling my microfilm order PH26879 covering a part of your 1664 edition of the English translation of Francois Rabelais' works.

I have a technical question for the librarian in connection with amending a citation in an article submitted to the editor of your Quarterly.

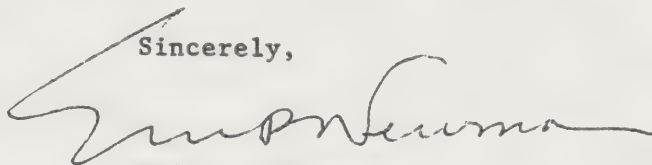
The first title page of what you sent to me carries the 1664 date, but an internal title page which follows after a biographical insert carries the 1653 date (the date of the first edition of the English translation).

Would the 1653 portion be a reprinting in 1664 from the retained letter press type forms of the first edition of 1653, or the inclusion of unsold remainder pages of the 1653 edition, or a resetting in new type in 1664 of the exact text of the 1653 edition?

Perhaps the type fonts, the paper, additional internal titles or other evidence would yield the answer.

I will be grateful for your suggestions after you examine your book. For your convenience, I enclose copies of the two title pages you sent me from the 1664 edition.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.

140817

THE
WORKS
Of the Famous
M^r. FRANCIS RABELAIS
DOCTOR IN PHYSICK,
Treating of the Lives, Heroick Deeds,
and Sayings of
GARGANTUA
And his Son
PANTAGRUEL.
To which is newly added the Life of the
AUTHOR.

Written Originally in French, and
Translated into English by
S^r. THOMAS V^e RICHARD K^t.

LONDON,
Printed for R. B. and are to be sold by John
Starkey, at the Mitre betwixt the Middle
Temple Gate and Temple Bar in Fleetstreet.
1664.

1st title

140817

The life of

year 1318. left but one Son not witty, who dyed in an Hospital after he had spent 20000 linges which he had of Inheritance near the Deanry, where grows the best Grape of *Chinon*, and near the Abbey of *Seville*.

His death was not unlike his life, for he dyed as he lived, aged 70 years, Cardinal *Bellay* sent a Page to enquire of his health, here was his answer, tell thy Lord in what condition thou see'st me in; I am going in quest of a great perhaps. He is in the Magpie's nest, there let him keep himself, thou wilt alwayes be a fool, draw the curtain, the farce is plaid.

Internal title

The first BOOK

Of the WORKS of

Mr. FRANCIS RABELAIS,

DOCTOR IN

Phyick:

Containing five Books of the Lives, Heroick Deeds, and Sayings of

GARGANTUA,

And his SONN

PANTAGRUEL.

TOGETHER

With the *Pantagrueline* Prognostication, the Oracle of the divine *Bacchus*, and response of the bottle.

Hereunto are annexed the Navigations unto the *Sounding Isle*, and the *Isle of the Apodesis*: as likewise the Philosophical cream with a *Limon* Epistle. All done by

Mr. FRANCIS RABELAIS, in the *French Tongue*, and now faithfully translated into *English*.

Εὐνοῦ βουλὰς ὁ ἀνταγρῆς.

LONDON, Printed for *Richard Baddesley*, within the middle *Temple-gate*. 1653.

SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY

Barbara A. Mowat, *Editor*

November 18, 1987

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have now received the reports on your submission, "Keep Up Your Shakespeare," Unfortunately, the reports did not recommend publication, and the Editorial Board is following their advice.

One reader responded:

What makes a scatological interpretation appealing is the emphasis it would lend to the *ubi sunt* and *sic transit topoi*, both of which are prominent in allusions to Alexander and Caesar in the Middle Ages; if Alexandros Megalos becomes mere skatos, the downturn of Fortune's Wheel is the more pronounced. But here the author is askew from a significant reading of the pages, since he finds in the allusion mere comedy which is "dreadfully coarse" (p. 2). He also misses the chance to enforce his interpretation from Hamlet's earlier reference to the king going a progress through the guts of a beggar (4.3.31-2). This seems a major omission.

Further, there are apparent misinterpretations at several points: Clay is not dung, but the mould that God shaped man from and to which his body returns in death. The bunghole stopper is carved out of loam, the mixture of clay and organic matter that results from Alexander's death and decay, not out of wood that comes from a tree growing in such loam. Modesty in context means "without exaggeration which would impair the probability" (Schmidt, *Lexicon*), not the opposite of bawdy.

In short, I regret passing up the Rabelais/Urquhart analogues, but I cannot find the article satisfactory in any other respect.

The second reader's response was even harder to ignore, in that it points out a previous discoverer of the bawdy use of "bunghole" in Hamlet

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and 'bung' in 2 Henry IV, including the supportive evidence of Cotgrave's definition of "cul de cheval" and the buttressing effect of "base," "wind," "wall," and "flaw." This reader responded:

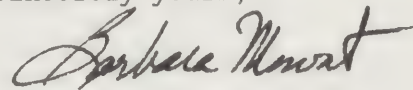
The writer's excitement over his "discovery" is understandable, for the information is important. It has, however, already appeared and been fully discussed in Frankie Rubinstein, A Dictionary of Shakespeare's Sexual Puns and Their Significance (London: Macmillan, 1984), under the listing "Bung(hole), bungle."

I suggest that the Rabelais quotations do not parallel the Shakespearean quotations, and that the more pertinent evidence that "bunghole" was known to the early 17th century as meaning anus is the reference to the Urquhart translation of Rabelais' "cul" and the Cotgrave 1611 definition of "cul de cheval."

Also, and this may be a purely personal reaction, are not words like "shocking" and "vulgar, : though, perhaps, true of some of Shakespeare's language per se, rather ill-chosen when applied to a thoughtful "interpretation" (opening sentence)?

Thank you for your interest in Shakespeare Quarterly. I am sorry I could not send happier news.

Sincerely yours,



Barbara A. Mowat
Editor

BAM:mah



THE FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

Administered by the Trustees of Amherst College

November 19, 1987.

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

In response to your letter of November 16 I have examined our copy of the 1664 edition of the English translation of François Rabelais' works (shelf-mark 140817). Since we do not have the first edition of the English translation, published in 1653, it is rather difficult to determine what happened.

The National Union Catalog Pre-1956 Imprints has a note that the 1664 edition is a "reissue of the ... 1653 edition" with the preliminary leaves added, but the card does not give any indication how they arrived at this statement.

I have consulted various bibliographies and works about the translator, Sir Thomas Urquhart, but found no information on the printing history of this work.

I am returning the two title-pages you sent.

Sincerely yours,

Nati H. Krivatsky

Nati H. Krivatsky, PhD
Reference Librarian

140817

THE
WORKS
Of the Famous
Mr. FRANCIS RABELAIS
DOCTOR IN PHYSICK,
Treating of the Lives, Heroick Deeds,
and Sayings of
GARGANTUA
And his Son
PANTAGRUEL.
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S^r THOMAS URCHARD K^t.

LONDON,
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1664.

first title

140817

The life of

year 1318. left but one Son not witty, who dyed in an Hospital after he had spent 20000 linges which he had of Inheritance near the Deanry, where grows the best Grape of *Chinon*, and near the Abbey of *Seville*.

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Internal title

The first BOOK

OF the WORKS of

M. FRANCIS RABELAIS,

DOCTOR IN

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Containing five Books of the Lives, Heroick Deeds, and Sayings of

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With the *Pantagrueline* Prognostication, the Oracle of the divine *Bacchus*, and response of the bottle.

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Mr. FRANCIS RABELAIS, in the *French* Tongue, and now faithfully translated into *English*.

Εὐνοῖ ἑὸν λόγος ὁ ἀνταγρῆς.

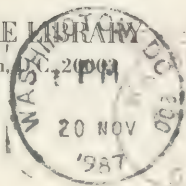
LONDON, Printed for Richard Baddely, within the middle Temple-gate. 1653.



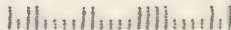
nk

THE FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

201 East Capitol Street, S.E. Washington,



Mr. Eric P. Newman
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Chapter XIII pp 57-61 3 openings

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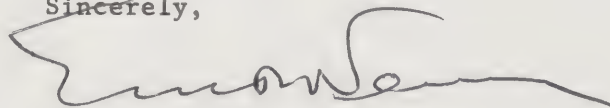
December 3, 1987

Macmillan Administration
4 Little Essex
London WC2R 3LF
ENGLAND

Gentlemen:

In 1984 you published A Dictionary of Shakespeare's Sexual Puns and Their Significance written by Frankie Rubinstein. Would you be kind enough to send the address of the author so that I may write directly to the author about the source of certain material. I will appreciate your cooperation,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric P. Newman

jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

December 3, 1987

Ms. Barbara Mowat
Shakespeare Quarterly
201 East Capitol S.E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

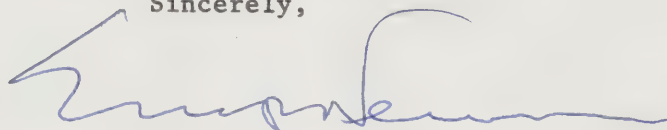
Dear Ms. Mowat:

I was naturally disappointed at your rejection of my article on the interpretation of a portion of the grave diggers' scene from Hamlet. I do thank you for excerpts from two readers. I plan to revise the article and submit it elsewhere, but thought that you might be willing to send me any balance of readers' comments, eliminating their identification. It would be very helpful to me.

The second comment you quoted stated that the word meanings were discussed in Frankie Rubinstein's 1984 publication. That was unknown to me. It is, however, long after my extensive comments covering the matter were published in 1976 in a numismatic book, but I did not have the Rabelais analog data then. Also I wrote letters about the matter to Eric Partridge in London over 20 years ago and would not be surprised if Rubinstein knew of my prior data.

I will appreciate any additional comment which you received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric P. Newman

jah

SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY

Barbara A. Mowat, *Editor*

December 7, 1987

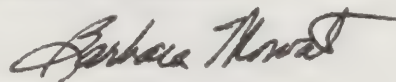
Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for your letter of December 3. I have no further information to send you, in that I included in my earlier correspondence copies of everything that I received. My only advice to you, as you revise your piece for publication elsewhere, is that you take a look at Frankie Rubenstein's book. It may well be that you have, in fact, information that she did not include.

Again, we appreciate your interest in Shakespeare Quarterly.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara A. Mowat
Editor

Published by the Folger Shakespeare Library
201 East Capitol Street, S.E., Washington, D. C. 20003



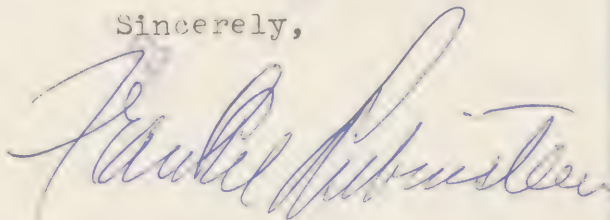
December 15, 1987

Dear Mr. Newman,

I have heard from Macmillan. If your interest was to get a copy of my book, I believe it can be ordered from The University of Pennsylvania Bookshop, Locust Walk, Phila., PA 19104.

Sincerely,

Rubinstein, 503
The Mermont
900 Montgomery Ave.
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul Rubinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Rubinstein" clearly legible.



PLEASE MAIL
EARLY FOR
CHRISTMAS

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri
63105



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

December 23, 1987

Ms. Barbara Mowat
Shakespeare Quarterly
201 East Capitol S.E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Dear Ms. Mowat:

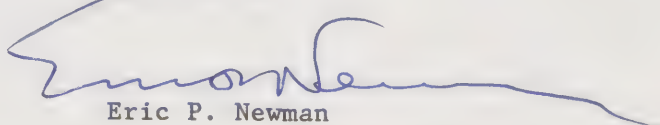
I appreciate your kindness as shown by your letter of 7 December 1987. I contacted the publisher in London of Frankie Rubinstein's Dictionary of Shakespeare's Sexual Puns and find that it is not available and will probably not be reprinted. Would you be nice enough to have your library send me a photocopy of the portion relating to "bunghole". I will gladly pay the expense as I did in ordering other material from your library.

As long as I am writing you, I feel that I should clear the record to show you that I was the first to propose the interpretation of the repartee about Alexander and Caesar in Hamlet. I enclose copies of my November 11, 1963 letter to Professor Harry Levin of Harvard College and his November 18, 1963 reply to me. Your reviewer had no way of knowing of this correspondence or my correspondence with Eric Partridge in England shortly thereafter. I believe Rubinstein may have had Partridge's files available.

I look forward to receiving the excerpt which your reviewer called to your attention and mine.

A very happy New Year to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dec24,1987

Mrs. Frankie Rubinstein
The Mermont , #503
900 Montgomery Ave.
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Dear Mrs.Rubinstein:

I very much appreciate your prompt response to my inquiry to Macmillan to locate you. It was an interesting talk we had as a result of it. I look forward to receipt of a photocopy of the portion of your book containing the references to "bunghole" and to "bung". Please include the title page also.

As I promised I am enclosing what I had published in 1976 on the matter in connection with my research on the word "bungtown",eliminating most of the strictly numismatic material. If you need the entire article I will be more than glad to send it.

My Shakespearean research on the words goes back to at least 1963 when I advised both Professor Levin of Harvard and Eric Partridge of London of my findings. Levin agreed. Partridge included some of my findings in the 4th (1968) edition of Shakespeare's Bawdy but only as to "bung" where he mentioned my name without taking a position himself. He may have wanted more proof.

I am very interested to learn from you as to what led to your findings as I assumed that Partridge's files were known to you or one upon whose research you drew.

I have some strong new evidence as I told you and am planning to get it published when it is fully refined.

Have a happy new year.I am going to Ecuador tomorrow.

Sincerely,

*Follow up copy
2/26/88*

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

THE MADISON HOTELS



F. Rubinstein - 12/28/1987
The Mermont, 503
Bryn Mawr, Pa 19010



Dec 12, 1787
Pennsylvania

Mr. Eric F. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105



Bulk Buttocks. Lit. body, belly; greater part. Bulk up: cause to swell. A bulker (arch.) is a strumpet (who sleeps on bulkheads), as in Durfey, *Madam Fickle*, v.i: 'this damn'd bulking quean [whore]'. John Oldham, 'The Streets of London': 'my Foot/Shall march about your Buttocks: whence d'ye come,/From what Bulk-ridden Strumpet reeking home?' (*Penguin Book of Restoration Verse*, p. 247).

WT, II.i.20, 2nd Lady: 'She is spread of late/Into a goodly bulk; good time encounter her!' Superficially, Hermione's goodly bulk is mere recognition of her pregnancy. But the language reflects the gossip: (1) SPREAD (open to coitus); (2) encounter (the sex-act – P). A few lines later her husband, like the 2nd Lady, uses GOOD (adulterous) twice: 'she is a goodly lady' and 'she's goodly', but you must add, 'She's an adulteress.' Bulk is, then, part of the allegation that Hermione is a strumpet; that, as her husband says, not he but her lover 'Has made thee swell thus'.

2H4, III.ii.277. Falstaff does not judge by 'the limb, the thewes, the stature, *bulk* and *big* assemblance of a man!' (italics added).

See STRAIGHT, *Oth*; SHED, *TrC*; Introduction, p. xiv, *Tem*.

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Ham, V.i.227: 'To what base uses we may return . . . trace the noble dust of Alexander . . . find it stopping a bung-hole'. This pun on Alexander, who was 'buried' and returned to 'stop a beer-barrel' (a bier or burial-barrel), as in life he stopped a different kind of bung-hole (his pederasty was famed, his lover Hephaestion likening them to Achilles and Patroclus), is repeated: Hamlet says Caesar, also turned to clay, stopped 'a hole to keep the wind [WIND, flatus] away' and 'a wall to expel the winter's flaw!' – Caesar's 'base' use is to patch a hole in a WALL (buttocks), to expel the flaw or crack (*per*: fart, crack – Cot). See CURIOUS for Horatio's appropriate reply.

H5, II.ii.115. Henry calls three traitors 'monsters' (MONSTERS, buggers). Scroop, who 'knew'st the very bottom of my soul' (VERY, the arse; bottom; SOUL, the arse), was 'wrought upon . . . preposterously' (PREPOSTEROUSLY: of the buttocks; of buggery) by a devil who 'got the voice [VOICE/VICE] in hell for excellence [EXCELLENCE: *Lex + cellere*, to raise high; pun on lewdness and sodomy]'. Scroop is told to rise, 'stand up', while other tempters, notably serpents, are condemned to crawl: 'All other devils that suggest by treasons/Do botch and bungle up damnation/With patches, colours . . . But he that temper'd thee bade thee stand up . . . He might return to vasty Tartar back/And tell the legions 'I can never win/A soul so easy as that Englishman's!' Bungle with patches and COLOURS/(It *culare*, arse) has a ring too like stopping up a *bunghole* (*Ham* above) not to be making the same pun (see TARTAR).

The DEVIL (bisexual) that *temper'd* (1593, to corrupt or pervert) and seduced Scroop (who, in turn, buggered Henry) might *return back* – redundancy to stress the area of the body discussed. He well might tell the OTHER (arse) devils who BOTCH (bugger) that he can never win a SOUL (arse) so EASY/*Fr aisé*/ass as that English/ingle-ish-man's (K): an angle, a catamite.

Henry's passionate renunciation culminates in likening Scroop's 'revolt' to 'Another fall of man', also brought about by a devil, the 'same demon that hath gull'd thee [Scroop] thus'. The SAME (homosexual) demon who GULLED (buggered) Scroop also made a 'gull' (buggered man)

40 BURN DAYLIGHT

of Malvolio (*TN*), and he, too, came from TARTAR. Cf. *Shakespeare Quarterly*, vol. 32, no. 2 (Summer 1981) p. 230, review of *Henry V*: 'effeminate portrayal of Scroop . . . in his final scene, delivered his lines with a simpering lisp'.

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Romeo. Nay, that's not so.

Mercutio. I mean, sir, in delay

We waste our lights in vain. . . .

Take our good meaning. . . .

Since *Mercutio* is impelled to say, take my *good* meaning, it seems likely it is this other that *Romeo* heard; esp. since in *Cor*, II.i.234, Sh links *Phoebus*, sun-god of daylight, to wanton revelling: 'wanton spoil/Of *Phoebus*' burning kisses' – wanton spoil (sexual violation – P) of burning (with ardour and with VD – *OED*; C; P).

See ALTER, *MWW*.

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See SILK, *RJ*.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

January 19, 1988

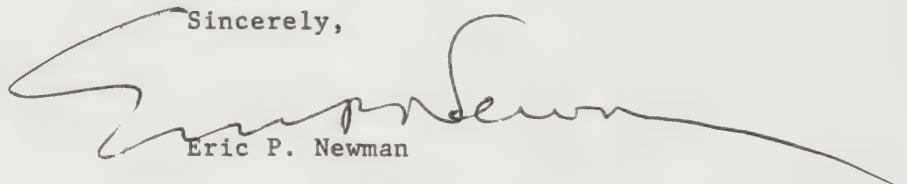
Mrs. Frankie Rubinstein
The Mermont 503
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Dear Mrs. Rubinstein:

I just returned from South America and read the photocopy which you sent concerning bung and bungle. Your fine work on this dictionary must be enormous. I would like to own the whole dictionary and would appreciate it if you will order one for us even if the cost may seem high to you. You knew the store which had it available. I'll buy the next edition as well whenever it is ready.

I am looking forward to an answer to my December 24, 1987 letter to you whenever you have a moment.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

THE FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20003



Administered by The Trustees of Amherst College

WERNER GUNDERSHEIMER
DIRECTOR

Feb. 18, 1988

Dear Mr. Newman:

*Attached is the photocopy
you requested.*

With my best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Mowat

Editor

Shakespeare Institute

Bulk Buttocks. Lit. body, belly; greater part. Bulk up: cause to swell. A bulker (arch.) is a strumpet (who sleeps on bulkheads), as in Durfey, *Madam Fickle*, v.i: 'this damn'd bulking quean [whore]'. John Oldham, 'The Streets of London': 'my Foot/Shall march about your Buttocks: whence d'ye come,/From what Bulk-ridden Strumpet reeking home?' (*Penguin Book of Restoration Verse*, p. 247).

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40 BURN DAYLIGHT

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See SILK, RJ.

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Rubinstein, Frankie. A Dictionary of
Shakespeare's Sexual Puns and their
Significance.

England: The MacMillan Press Ltd., 1984.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

March 31, 1988

Ms. Barbara A. Mowat, Editor
Folger Shakespeare Library
201 E. Capitol St. S.E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Dear Ms. Mowat:

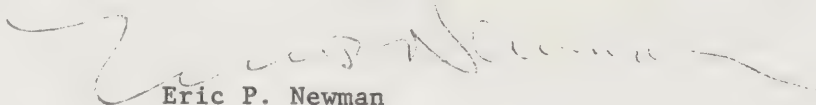
I am late in thanking you for sending the bung and bunghole page from Frankie Rubinstein's dictionary, but I do appreciate it. She arranged for me to buy a copy which I just received.

She lists Eric Partridge's 1968 (his last) edition of Shakespeare's Bawdy in her bibliography, but under the word "bung" in her work she does not cite my interpretation of "bung" which the 1968 edition of Partridge specifically mentioned. Other words in Rubinstein are accompanied by such citations.

After three written requests beginning last year, Rubinstein has not answered my inquiry as to whether Partridge's files were available to her or to one of her helpers.

I thank you for your kindness in this matter even though you sent me the first rejection I have received in forty years of writing.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

September 5, 1989

Martha Adams
508 Forsythe
Monroe, LA 70201

Dear Martha:

Little did you think that I would actually contact you with respect to our joint interest in Hamlet, etc., when I met you at the lovely party in St. Louis.

I promised I would send you my little article, which I revised over the weekend. It is enclosed. I hope it is of interest to you.

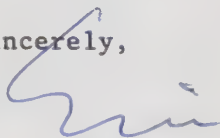
I feel my former article of 1976 is unnecessary to send, but the Shakespeare part is similar except for the Rabelais portion. I will send it if you still want it.

Your corrections, suggestions, and comments are welcome. Do you wish to send it (after further revision) to Louis Marder at the Shakespeare Newsletter or should I do it directly? I do not plan to tell him that the Folger Quarterly turned it down, even though their reasons seem quite wrong. What probably happened is that Frankie Rubinstein used Eric Partridge's files and read my correspondence, but she won't answer my written inquiries as to whether she did or did not.

This subject matter has never, to my knowledge, been written up in a literary publication. It ought to be of interest because the lines are so famous.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

mb

Enclosure

Martha Lou Adams

9/23/89

Dear Eric:

How nice to have another
ripple from the lovely St. Louis
party. And the article interests
me very much. I have read
it carefully with a developing
conviction that you are exactly
right in your interpretation.

Whenever speeches are
expanded beyond reasonable
dramatic necessity, the presence
of other factors can be assumed,
of course - Something significant

Martha Lou Adams

flickers behind those particular
lines — and in the larger
context of the entire play, your
analysis seems to me to be
correct.

Thank you for letting me
read your article — which
I genuinely enjoyed — I'd like
to send these copies now to
Imis Harder — along with a
cover letter. If I don't hear
from you that you'd prefer

Martha Lou Adams

Something else, I'll mail
the copies and my letter to
him in about a week.

What a joy to meet
a Renaissance personality
at a Revel!

Yours truly,

Martha Lou

Saturday

508 Forsythe Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201



Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

63105

Martha Lou Adams

10/11/89

Dear Eric:

What a splendid
Clincher! And you have
good timing, too. Eric had
a root canal problem, & your
letter-covered article will go
off Tuesday — complete with
addendum.

Yours truly,
Martha Lou

Wednesday

508 Forsythe Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201



Mr. Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St. Louis, Mo.

63105

10/17/69

Martha Lou Adams

Dear Eric:

Mailed today with cover

letter. Sent to

Louis Mander

1217 Oakland Ave.

Groton, Ct.

60202

I think you are absolutely accurate
and I said so in my letter.

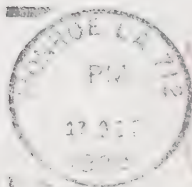
Good luck -

Yours Truly,

Martha Lou

Momma
Tuesday

508 Forsythe Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201



Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

63105

Martha Lou Adams

5/23/90

Dear Eric:

Can't imagine why you haven't heard something from SNL, although I do know that the focus is currently upon enlarging the data bank. I just don't know what to suggest; however, I lean toward your sending a revision with the addition.

Yes, we've been traveling, too. Jackson Hole and another trip to Alaska next. Then — who knows? I've been

examining the literature on
Cambodia myself - know that
was exciting.

Good luck -

Yours truly,
Martha Con

Tuesday

5/23/90



Jack London

Mr. Eric Newman

6450 Cecil Ave.

St. Louis, Mo.

63105

Eric P. Newman

6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

June 4, 1990

Mr. Louis Marder
1217 Ashland Ave.
Evanston, IL 60202

Dear Mr. Marder:

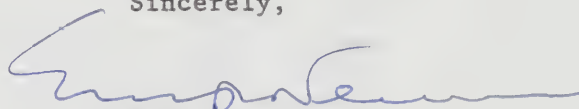
In October, 1989 there was submitted to you for publication in the **Shakespeare Newsletter** an article I wrote entitled "Shakespeare's Fun with a Pun on Bung." It was sent in by Martha Lou Adams of Monroe, Louisiana on my behalf.

She advises me that she had not heard from you and suggested that I follow up. In case the article was not received or was mislaid, I am enclosing another draft which includes a minor revision.

If the article is acceptable for publication, I shall be glad to make any revisions you or your editorial staff may suggest for clarification. I hope what I wrote will be of interest to your readers. If you wish to talk to me by telephone, my office number is 314-331-6540 and residence number is 314-727-0850.

I will be appreciative of your consideration of this item.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Barbara A. Mowat
Shakespeare Quarterly
201 E. Capitol St. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

December 3, 1990

Dear Dr. Mowat,

In accordance with your suggestion arising out of my telephone call to you I am resubmitting my article now entitled "SHAKESPEARE'S FUN WITH A PUN ON BUNG" . I took renewed interest in having this published when I learned that Dr. Werner Gundersheimer was coming to St. Louis to speak at our Mercantile Library.

I submitted this article to you in 1987 for publication in the Quarterly when my article had a different title and it was turned down for reasons mentioned in the enclosed copy of your letter. I have made many changes suggested by your reviewers in that letter but some comments I felt might not be justified by the facts, particularly the reference to Rubenstein which was long after my material was submitted to Professor Harry Levin of Harvard (1963) and to Eric Partridge of England (prior to 1968). I wrote Rubenstein several times asking her if she or one of her researchers had examined the Partridge files and these inquiries were never answered. In her dictionary she did not even cite my original interpretation of "bung" in Henry IV quoted in Partridge's 1968 edition of Shakespeare's Bawdy as she did with respect to other similar matters. I published it first in any event in Numismatic Studies in 1976. It seems unfair for me to be disadvantaged by virtue of her publication under these circumstances.

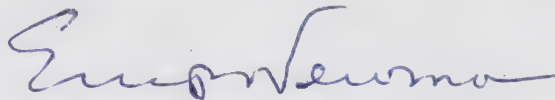
The reason I believe the article should be published is that this "bung-hole" interpretation of the grave digger's scene in Hamlet is virtually unknown. The Rabelais proof of its meaning at the time is new. The interpretation has to my knowledge never been presented in a literary publication. In fact, in the 1989 revision of the Oxford English Dictionary the secondary meaning of the word "bung-hole" is only referenced to Cotgrave and not to its earlier use in Hamlet. No Shakespeare concordance includes the interpretation to my knowledge.

I can easily add a comment proposed by one of your prior reviewers as to the king in Hamlet passing through the guts of the beggar (IV. 3. 31-2) if you feel the king, worm, fish, beggar episode is sufficiently comparable.

I believe my article has something your readers will find new to them and of substantial interest. I will be glad to accept any suggestions to improve the article which you or others may be kind enough to make. A copy of the revised article is enclosed.

I appreciate the graciousness and cooperation shown in your prior letters and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric P. Newman

encls:



THE FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

Administered by the Trustees of Amherst College

December 6, 1990

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Mercantile Tower
Seventh and Washington
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Dear Eric,

I was delighted to have a chance to meet you in St. Louis, and appreciate your gestures of hospitality.

I'm also delighted to know of your interest in Shakespeare and the Folger Library, and I would, of course, welcome your participation in any of our programs with great enthusiasm. I gather you have an interest in the perennial authorship question, so I thought I might mention to you that the Friends of the Library will be sponsoring a talk by Charles de Vere, Lord Burford, on April 24. I thought it would be fun to have a prominent Oxfordian come and talk about the cause, and who better than his direct descendent?

Enclosed you will find some of our propaganda, including invitations to join the Friends of the Library and the Founders Society, our major donor group. The latter is quite a commitment, and I include it for your information rather than in the hope that you will want to support us at this level right off the bat!

This brings you and all the family my greetings and good wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Werner Gundersheimer

Enclosures

SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY
201 East Capitol Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 544-4600

Date 12/8/90

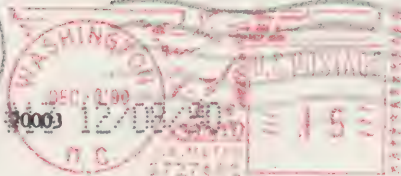
We are in receipt of your manuscript as of 12/7/90
and it is being processed for review.

Thank you for your interest in Shakespeare Quarterly.

Editorial Assistant
SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY

SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY

Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C. 20003



ERIC NEWMAN
6450 CECIL AVE
ST LOUIS MO 63105



SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY

Barbara A. Mowat, *Editor*

12 February 1991

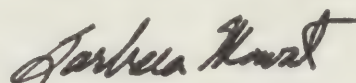
Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for submitting your essay, "Shakespeare's Fun With a Pun on Bung" to Shakespeare Quarterly. We regret the fact that the essay does not meet our needs at this time. In the hope that you may find them helpful, I am enclosing comments from one or more reviewers of your manuscript.

As you did not enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your manuscript, we are unable to return it to you. If you would like the manuscript back, please send us an envelope within 60 days; if we do not hear from you within that time period, we will assume that you do not want the manuscript returned, and we will destroy it.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara A. Mowat
Editor

BAM/meh

enclosure(s)

Published by the Folger Shakespeare Library
201 East Capitol Street, S.E., Washington, D. C. 20003



Although one can't deny that the word "bunghole" might mean "anus," I have trouble however seeing why "base" (p. 2) has to refer to the buttocks. And the extended analogy about wind as flatus, clay as feces are merely unpleasant. I'm not sure there's anything here more than that a part of the earthiness of the body is the excretory process, etc. Gargantua doesn't prove anything other than that the meaning was available, which I wouldn't deny in any case. The 2H4 is a more compelling example since it's Shakespeare. But this, if it's to be printed, should be in Notes & Queries, not Shakespeare Quarterly.

The author has discovered in a 1653 translation by Sir Thomas Urquhart of Rabelais' Gargantua collateral meanings for the word "bunghole" to mean anus. The translation is of the French signifier, "cul," which Cotgrave translates under "cul de cheval." The contribution this note makes to the gravediggers' scene in Hamlet thus is to supply a somewhat later corroboration of this meaning. The author wants to do more interpretively, however, than just supply additional lexical evidence for the meaning of "bunghole." He wants to suggest that Shakespeare "intended" this meaning as part of extended pun on flatus, in Hamlet's disquisition on Caesar and Alexander, specifically that Caesar's "dust" can be digested by someone and "stop" his lower bowel, i.e., prevent the passing of gas.

I suppose this is plausible enough, though I cannot say that such an addition notably transforms the scene by making it undeniably hilarious. The real problem has to do with this writer's positivistic understanding of signification and author's intention, as well as a rather old-fashioned idea of humor "meant" for the groundlings. Certainly there are other hermeneutic possibilities at work in the scene, having to do with the play's teasing out the meanings of action in relation to will. The author seems motivated by a wish to "save" Shakespeare from an otherwise flat moment of dialogue, to save Shakespeare from banality; such a task is no longer a high priority for Shakespeareans, and cannot therefore be reason to publish this otherwise very minor lexical note in SQ.

SHAKESPEARE QUARTERLY

201 East Capitol Street, S.E., Washington, D. C. 20003

ERIC NEWMAN
6450 CECIL AVE
ST LOUIS MO 63105



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

February 13, 1991

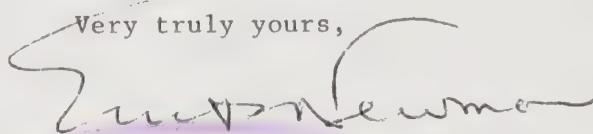
Mr. William Rosen
MacMillan Publishing Co.
866 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Rosen:

I telephoned your office in the hope that you could tell me the address or telephone number, or both, of Paul Beale, who is the editor of the last few editions of **A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English**. Your firm has published a number of these editions. I was in correspondence many years ago with Eric Partridge, the original author of the dictionary.

I would like to make a suggestion to improve a word or so in the dictionary and would like to contact Mr. Beale. Would you be kind enough to tell me how I can contact him.

Very truly yours,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv



LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

David Bishop Skillman Library

March 1, 1991

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Please rest assured that the two Nova Constellatio 1000 replicas arrived safely at the Lafayette Library yesterday. (I enclose an updated copy of your original receipt indicating this for your records.) I am so glad that they were useful to you, and moreover I am especially glad that there was at least one small service that Lafayette could render you in light of your wonderful generosity to us last fall. I feel I have not really properly thanked you for all the time and effort you expended on our behalf. I hope it is not too late to tell you how grateful we are to you for examining the Neumoyer coins, and making us aware of what we did, or perhaps I should say, did not have. The disappointing outcome notwithstanding, it was a great pleasure and honor to have you with us.

I want to thank you also for the two Eric P. Newman publications--The Fantastic 1804 Dollar and the Bicentennial edition of The Early Paper Money of America. Both will be added to the Library--the former into our special collections and the latter into our reference collection. I am looking forward to reading about the 1804 dollar, as it looks fascinating.

When you were here you mentioned your Shakespeare piece that you had previously submitted to coin journals. You may remember that I told you about the Shakespeare journal that is published on the Lafayette campus, edited by two members of our English faculty. The journal is the Shakespeare Bulletin, and although its focus is Shakespeare in performance, it does indeed publish other kinds of materials. I have spoken with the editors and they would be pleased for you to submit a copy of your article for consideration--they use the normal procedure of sending submissions to outside referees. I do hope you will consider doing so. The editors are Professors June Schlueter and James P. Lusardi, and the address is Shakespeare Bulletin, Department of English, Lafayette College, Easton, PA, 18042.

Mr. Eric P. Newman
March 1. 1991
Page 2

As for the Neumoyer coin collection and its disposition, I am sorry to tell you that we have not as yet made a decision in the matter. As soon as we do, we will let you know. If you and Colonel Mallis are willing, the college's alumni magazine may do a feature on your visit and your findings. Bernard R. Carman of our public relations office may be in touch with you shortly.

Again, let me say thank you and what a delight it was to have you come to Lafayette. I wish we had another excuse to lure you back for a visit. With warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diane Shaw", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Diane Windham Shaw
Special Collections Librarian
and College Archivist

Enclosure

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

March 11, 1991

Ms. Diane W. Shaw
Skillman Library
Lafayette College
Easton, PA 18042-1797

Dear Diane:

Your suggestion as to my submission of my article on Shakespeare surprised me and encouraged me to do it. It was very thoughtful of you. I would appreciate it if you will send me a copy of one of the prior Shakespeare Bulletin publications.

I will make a few changes in the article I have written in order to try for a little further improvement, and will be perfectly satisfied for your editors to make suggestions for changes if they wish. The subject matter might be considered slightly vulgar but that is common in Shakespeare's material. Although it is somewhat comical, the article is quite serious and should be new to virtually all of your readers.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv



LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

David Bishop Skillman Library

March 15, 1991

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Many thanks for your letters which were received today. I very much appreciated your modified proposal for the disposition of the false pieces in the Neumoyer collection. This may indeed help us to resolve the issue.

I am enclosing a copy of the Shakespeare Bulletin. I am sorry that I do not have a more recent extra issue, but the format is essentially unchanged. I should remind you that although the focus is Shakespeare in performance, the editors did assure me that they are willing to consider other kinds of materials. I am delighted that you plan to submit your article, and I wish you the best of luck.

Again, our thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Diane Windham Shaw
Special Collections Librarian
and College Archivist

Enclosure

Eric P. Newman

6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

James P. Lusardi
June Schleuter
Shakespeare Bulletin
Department of English
Lafayette College
Easton, PA 18042

March 22, 1991

Dear editors:

Diane W. Shaw, your college archivist, has encouraged me to submit to your publication an explanation of the meaning of a popular portion of the grave diggers' scene from Hamlet. My article is entitled "Shakespeare's Fun with a Pun on Bung-hole." This interpretation has never been previously presented in any literary publication to my knowledge. I originally wrote the study for a numismatic journal to explain the word "bungtown" as an early American slang term for a debased copper coin and developed the Shakespeare material in researching it. The Rabelais evidence is a recent finding and has never been published anywhere.

These particular words in Hamlet have continually been spoken and read without the actors, the audiences or the readers of recent centuries understanding their underlying comic meaning.

I believe your readers will find the interpretation quite new and of interest. I will gladly accede to any improvements you may suggest if the article appeals to you.

Thank you for taking this submission under consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman

SHAKESPEARE BULLETIN

A Journal of Performance Criticism and Scholarship

Co-editors

James P. Lusardi

June Schlueter



We acknowledge with thanks the article you submitted to **Shakespeare Bulletin**. As soon as the review process is completed, you will be hearing from us.

Many thanks.

June Schlueter

4/22/91

Lafayette College, Easton, PA 18042 • (215) 250-5245 or 5248



USA 19

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St. Louis, MO 63105

MACMILLAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
A DIVISION OF MACMILLAN, INC.
866 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022

April 22, 1991

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for your interest in Paul Beale's PARTRIDGE'S CONCISE DICTIONARY OF SLANG AND UNCONVENTIONAL ENGLISH. I do not have Mr. Beale's address or telephone number, as we corresponded mainly with his British publisher. Therefore, I enclose the address of a contact there, in hopes that they can be of help. Please write to:

Ms. Flavia Hodges
Routledge Publishers
11 New Fetter Lane
London EC4P 4EE

or call: 071-583-9855 (fax: 071-583-0701).

I hope they have can assist you and regret that I have no further information.

Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely,


Nancy B. Cooperman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

April 29, 1991

Ms. Flavia Hodges
Routledge Publishers
11 New Fatter Lane
London EC4P 4EE
ENGLAND

Dear Ms. Hodges:

Please forward this letter to Paul Beale. I will appreciate it, as MacMillan Publishing Company could not furnish his address to me.

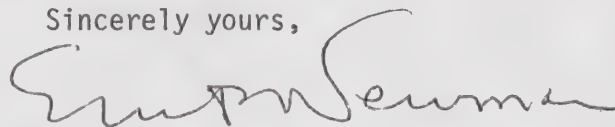
I introduce myself as having corresponded with Eric Partridge and he included my name in explaining the meaning of the word "bung" in the 4th edition (1968) of Shakespeare's Bawdy. I had also demonstrated (I thought) that "bunghole" as used in the grave diggers' scene in Hamlet had a similar meaning but Partridge did not then publish that in his 4th edition. I have never seen a 5th edition of Shakespeare's Bawdy (if there is one) as to what happened as to those two words. I know your new editions are edited by Paul Beale and bring this matter forward.

I published my interpretations in an American numismatic magazine in 1976 to explain the American word "bungtown." I find the 1989 revision of OED does not include the use of "bunghole" in Hamlet. I have additional corroborating evidence of my interpretation which Paul Beale might find of interest.

My article has never been in a literary publication and has been revised for that purpose. It might be of interest to you for your dictionary and perhaps it could be used by Notes and Queries.

Would you let me know if you are interested in seeing my research article. It is only 5 pages long and I think will add to your definition.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', written in a cursive style.

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

12th May 1991.

Dear Mr Newman,

Ms Flavia Hodges has forwarded your letter to me as you asked her to do. It is always interesting to me to hear from people who corresponded at any time with Eric Partridge.

I have no pretensions whatsoever to anything like the scholarly aptitudes and practices of E.P.; I regard myself merely as a clerical successor, a posthumous amanuensis with a fascination for some aspects of the work he did so well. I believe there is ^{to} ~~be~~ t_2 (? has been) a re-issue of the Shakespeare's Bawdy, 1968 edition, but my own concern is with the dictionaries of slang, and the one of catchphrases, only.

If Routledge have any plans for further editions of these dictionaries they're being careful not to tell me about them - It's the old mushroom syndrome, except that they don't even bother to feed me. However, I would indeed be interested to see your article, for it sounds as though some modification should be made to bunghole in the big Dict. of Slang if a 9th edition is ever called for. In the 7th edn. bunghole = anus is dated 'c 18th onwards'; I found no correction to this among the mass of notes that Partridge left me for the construction of the 8th.

So, altho' I cannot promise that it will ever be used, I would be grateful to see what you have written. May I suggest that you also send a copy to John Simpson, a joint editor of the OED, a very approachable man who has always responded courteously to my own comments and queries.

It is good of you to have taken the trouble to write like this, and I thank you for it.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Beale

To open slit here

By air mail
Par avion



Great
Britain
Postage
P



Aerogramme

Eric P. NEWMAN

Numismatic Education Society

6450 CECIL AVENUE

ST LOUIS

MISSOURI 63105

U.S.A.

Name and address of sender

Paul Beale

131 Byron Street

Loughborough

LEICS.

Postcode LE 11 0JN

U.K.

An aerogramme should not contain any enclosure

To open slit here



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Walter Breen
Box 352
Berkeley, CA 94701

June 24, 1991

Dear Walter:

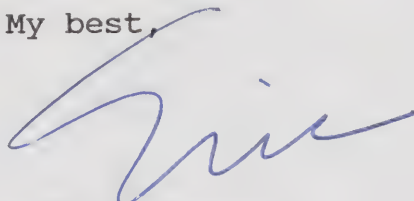
I look forward to seeing you in Chicago but in the meanwhile I am enclosing a copy of my recently published article "Shakespeare's Fun with a Pun on Bunghole" in the *Shakespeare Bulletin* for Spring 1991.

I had never published in any literary journal my 1976 numismatic research and I had never had the opportunity to publish the evidence you gave me as to Rabelais. My acknowledgement to you was in the text of the article originally but the editor moved it to a footnote.

I hope this gives you a laugh or two. I thank you again for passing on to me the Rabelais translation.

The poetry of the privy talking to its occupant is as funny as any poetic license ever issued.

My best,



Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Martha Adams
508 Forsythe
Monroe, LA 70201

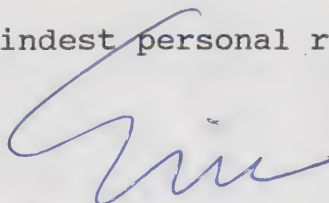
June 24, 1991

Dear Martha:

Having received no response from Louis Marder of the **Shakespeare Newsletter** as to either your submittal or my follow up of my article I submitted the item to the **Shakespeare Bulletin** instead. I enclose a copy of their recent publication of it.

I want to thank you for your kindness in trying to have the item published. Your cooperation made me improve the article, increased my desire to have it published, and gave me a better understanding of academia's attitude toward outsiders.

My kindest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', written in a cursive style.

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mrs. Collette Winn
Department of Romance Languages
Campus Box 1077
Washington University
St. Louis, MO 63130

June 24, 1991

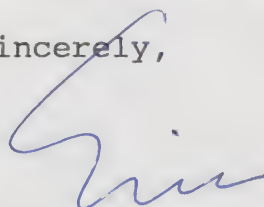
Dear Collette:

Your cooperation and gracious technical assistance to me in 1987 enabled me to complete my research for the enclosed copy of article entitled "Shakespeare's Fun with a Pun on Bunghole". Without your help I would never have been able to present the reinforcement from Rabelais to my interpretation of the meaning of Hamlet's lines.

I had put my acknowledgement to you in the main text of the article, but the editors transferred it to a footnote.

Thank you sincerely for your kindness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Eric P. Newman

cc: James F. Jones

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mrs. Diane Windham Shaw
Archivist
Skillman Library
Lafayette College
Easton, PA 18042-1797

June 25, 1991

Dear Diane:

Due to your suggestion my article entitled "Shakespeare's Fun with a Pun on Bunghole" was published in the *Shakespeare Bulletin*. I was pleasantly surprised. I thought I would be advised and given a chance to see the suggested changes if it was acceptable. However the outside referees or the editors did a superb job of editing and made me a better writer than I really am.

I thank you for encouraging me to submit it.

I have been asked to send the article to England for inclusion of the interpretation in the next revision of the slang dictionary started by Eric Partridge and now edited by Paul Beale.

In the meanwhile I have had published a few more numismatic writings.

I read about your stolen item and I am also involved in trying to recover coins stolen from a museum long ago. So I hope both of us recover.

I sincerely hope you are thriving.

My kindest greetings and thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Paul Beale
131 Byron St.
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11-OJN
United Kingdom

26 June 1991

Dear Mr. Beale:

Your very kind letter of 12 May 1991 relative to interpretation of bunghole was not answered for two good reasons. My wife and I took a trip to Lithuania, Latvia and Poland to learn what those people are thinking. Your letter was in our mail on our return. In the meantime my article "Shakespeare's Fun with a Pun on Bunghole" was to come out in *Shakespeare Bulletin* (Spring 1991), and it has just arrived. I am enclosing a photocopy. Whatever use you make of it in your dictionary work is now your decision.

I do not have John Simpson's address and if you feel the article should be sent to him for OED committee consideration I will do so or you may do so.

My granddaughter is just completing her junior year abroad at Cambridge in drama so I'll try the article on her too.

Your modesty about being a "clerkly successor" to Eric Partridge would have made him laugh. He knew every joke except that one.

My sincere thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric P. Newman". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline.

Eric P. Newman



10th July 1991.

By air mail
Par avion

LEICE

ECTORS CA

Dear Mr Newman,

Many thanks for the photograph of
your article from Shakespeare, B4931,
and for your letter. I will certainly
pass it on to the OED people in due
course, but had only recently written
to John Simpson when yr letter came.
So shall not be bothering him again for
a month or two. Incidentally, I must
stress that I've had nothing to do with
EP's Sh's Bandy - and the publishers
have now steered me off from the dictionary!
my eyes can't tackle VDI

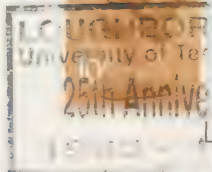
No. 7: BRADGATE PARK

"Old John" NB: Just 'Old John', NOT 'work

Published by "Photographic Heritage" (☎ 0933-313226). Best

Photograph by Gordon Flanagan.

'The old John' Paul Beale



Eric P. Newman.

6450 CECIL AVENUE,
ST LOUIS
MISSOURI 63105

U. S. A.

July 19, 1991



Dear Eric,

I enjoyed talking to you today - I phoned "The Jewish Light" and spoke with their editor Bob Cohen - he (I believe) wrote the article on Ba after his death but didn't recall an article on Grammy - he will dig around and get back to me. I thought I would turn the rest of the search over to Peter

(he is due back in Town Sunday)
as he most likely knows where
(+ who has!) information on
Grammy may be. I thought
I would phone one of Grammy's
best friends too!

We'll be in touch very
soon!

Love,

Diana

P.S. Thank you for sharing the
exciting news about your
Shakespeare discovery! Fantastic!
I really enjoyed hearing about it!

711 Middle Polo Drive
Saint Louis, Missouri 63105



Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil
St. Louis
Missouri 63105

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. William Safire
New York Times
229 West 43d St.
New York, NY 10036

February 6, 1992

Dear Mr. Safire:

Your exciting column on word meanings and derivations has led me to enclose a photocopy of an article of mine published last year in the Shakespeare Bulletin. It relates to a new comic interpretation of the graveyard scene from Hamlet, based upon the word "bunghole".

Curiously my research began thirty years ago to solve a numismatic problem, but finally solved the previously unrecognized meaning of a portion of the well known and often recited lines. You will find that the 1989 edition of the Oxford English Dictionary did not recognize it and that no Shakespeare concordance or glossary has yet included it. To my knowledge no one disputes it. Prior to my article this interpretation was not previously published as a literary matter.

Your readers might enjoy your observations on the matter. If you need any further data I will try to furnish it to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman", with a stylized, flowing script.

Eric P. Newman

P.S. In polite society as you realize "cul de sac" is commonly used without the realization that the true meaning of that expression has a similar origin. The French are quite aware of it.

Business telephone (314) 331-6540
Residence telephone (314) 727-0850

The New York Times

3/18/1992

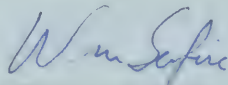
On Language

You were good to write. (That's better than "It was good of you to write," because sentences beginning with "it" are boring.)

Your comments go into the thought processor inside my head and may one day pop up in a column.

Thanks again (which is repetitious but not redundant).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Safire".

WILLIAM SAFIRE

The New York Times

WASHINGTON BUREAU
1627 I STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006



Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic
Education Society
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

April 6, 1992

Professor Theodore V. Buttrey
President
Royal Numismatic Society
6 de Freville Ave.
Cambridge CB4 1HR
ENGLAND

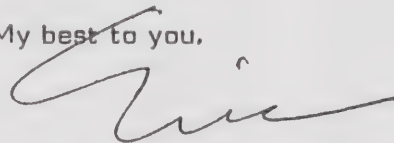
Dear Ted:

My granddaughter, Abigail Solomon, just visited us in St. Louis and it was the first time we had seen her since her Royal Numismatic Society appearance. She enjoyed that experience with you so much. She graduates from Williams College this June.

I had also heard that the RNS proceedings containing her acceptance is published. Would you be able to send me 2 copies, one for her and one for me. Please bill me for the cost.

My wife and I just visited Albania and are about to go down the Mississippi River on the Delta Queen (a paddle wheeler). I am still writing numismatic articles, but recently published the enclosed interpretation of Shakespeare's gravediggers' scene from Hamlet in which I explain how the word "bung-hole" changed the meaning of the Alexander-Caesar poetic episode into a bowel function. This arose from my numismatic study of the meaning of Bungtown coppers.

My best to you.



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

enc.

6 de Freville Ave
Cambridge CB4 1HR
England

21 May 1992

Mr. Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St Louis, MO 63105
USA

Dear Eric,

Sorry to be so long in getting back to yours of the 6th ult., but I have acted on it, just not yet responded.

The citation read on the occasion of the award of the RNS medal to you, and your reply, were recorded in the last issue of Numismatic Chronicle. All our stocks are held by Spink's in London, and I have asked Douglas Saville, the head of their numismatic book dept., to send on 2 copies to you and bill you.

Transatlantic post of that sort usually takes 6-8 weeks. If you don't hear anything by that time, let me know and I will chase the order.

Thanks for your article on the bung-towns. I heard you give the earlier paper at the ANS some years ago, and watched the President turn pale. I'm glad that you have been able to teach the Shakespearean scholars something.

All the best,

Ged

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Department of Coins and Medals
Fitzwilliam Museum
Cambridge CB2 1RB
England

DR. LEIGH Gerdine

Railway Exchange Building, Suite 20 F
611 Olive Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63101-1721
(314) 231-8530
Fax (314) 231-8530

President Emeritus
Webster University

November 13, 1993

Dear Eric,

Thanks for the pun on bunghole, in Shakespeare: your argument is very convincing to me. I haven't written anything similar, so I can't return the favor.

But the passage which I mentioned from MACBETH, near the end (Act V, scene V) is one where there is a cry from the women. Macbeth asks what that was, and the report comes,

"The queen, my lord, is dead." Then Macbeth says,

"She should have died hereafter. There would have been a time for such a word. To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow Creeps in this petty pace. . . etc"

When the play is done, Macbeth has always (in performances I have seen and heard) said the line, "She should have died hereafter" as though to mean, "Good God, this additional problem for me at this terrible moment!" I don't think that is what it means.

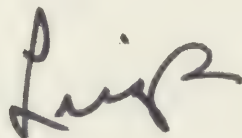
I think it means, "What difference does it make now? She would have died sooner or later in any case." Then the bit about

tomorrow and tomorrow makes sense.

[over

But that kind of detail wouldn't matter **except**
to people like you and me, where we expect
everything to make sense.

Thanks for the article.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Luis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a stylized "uis" that ends in a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional
English

Eric Partridge

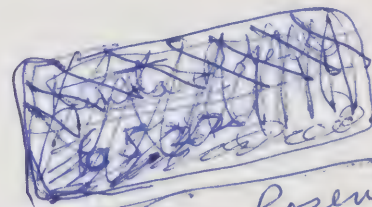
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New York

866 Third Ave
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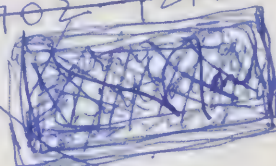
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William Rosen
212-702-6886
9719 asst

~~212 614 5600~~
~~dictionary~~

212-702-4216
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The Editors
Notes and Queries
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quarterly

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Feb
1991

contributors
may obtain
style sheets
from the
editors

Signed

Thomas, Missouri Euphonia

Notes and Queries
For readers and writers
Collectors and librarians

Editors

L. G. Black
D. Hewitt
E. G. Stanley

Vol 235 is Dec 1990

I have been encouraged to submit to
 by a reviewer of the Folger Shakespeare library
 It was suggested that I submit ~~for~~ to you
 for publication the enclosed article entitled
Shakespeare's Poem with a Pun on Bump. This
 interpretation of ~~the~~ of a well known
 portion of the poem ~~is~~ ^{presented} ~~is~~ ^{seems} from ~~that~~
 has never been ~~published~~ in a literary publication.
~~It~~ Coin publication

I will gladly amend ~~to~~ it ~~to~~ ^{conform} to ~~comply~~
 to ~~any~~ any text or stylistic suggestions
 you may make.

COMMENTS

FROM

Joe Lasser

TO

Eric Newmair

DATE

February 26 1991

FAX COVER SHEET

NUMBER OF PAGES

(INCLUDING COVER)

3

Research Department

522 Fifth Avenue/New York, N.Y. 10036
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 Members New York Stock Exchange

Newberger & Berman

2/24/80

The Annotated Shakespeare
Edited by ^{Alfred} A. L. Rowse

Henry IV Part II ^{Act II} Scene 4
A

P. 494 Note 138 referring to the word "bung"
as Pickpocket

Crown Publishers, ^{Inc} New York 1978

Charlson W. Potter, Inc
One Park Ave NY NY 10016

General Reference to Eric Partridge
Shakespeare's Bawdy
as 1948

No footnote on bung-hole in Hamlet

Folger library
202 - 544-4600

Dr Barbara Mowat
Shakespeare Quarterly
Folger Shakespeare Lib
201 E Capital St
Wash DC
20003

were not known until 1916, and
a small area in the 1803 obverse die
had rusted before being used for striking.
Stacks disagreed with that time frame
and asserted that the 1801, 1802 and
1803 proof dollars were struck in the
1834-1835 period. Stacks stated that
the 1803 obverse die could have rusted
within a few weeks "in a hot and
damp Philadelphia climate." That statement
did ~~not~~ point out that the 1801 and 1802
obverse dies for the proof ^{dollars} did not rust
under identical conditions. Stacks went
on to say that the 1801 and 1802 obverse
dies ^{for proof dollars} would have rusted if they had not
been used until 1858. That statement
did ~~not~~ point out that when the 1804
dollar was restruck in 1858 the obverse
die did not show any rust blemishes.
In our opinion Stacks' arguments are
too speculative to be the basis of assigning
a new date of coinage when other data
seems more reliable.

check
whether
winter

Rabelais 1494 ~~1530~~ to 1553

Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty

Nash 16th century

Sterne 18th

Samuel Putnam

All of the Sixtant Works of Francois Rabelais
NY 1929 by Samuel Putnam (?)

821 4448

ATLANTA
Marriott
MARQUIS

Walter Green
says

8/28/87

~~Unghart~~
Sir Thomas ~~Bulkehard~~
translation to English of
Book I - Gargantua
& Rabelais

this is the first translation into
English.

first line — — — — — also funny
My lung, has flung some dung
on us

B

Folger library

202 544 4600

Dr. Barbara Mowat

Shakespeare Quarterly

Folger Shakespeare library

201 E. Capital St

Washington, D.C.

20003

(13)

Some comments in The Fantastic

1804 Dollars have been challenged by
Stacks in the catalog of the Robison
Collection Sale held in February 1982.

~~The~~^{Our} book had stated as ~~the~~ to the
proof dollars dated 1801, 1802 and
1803 that the evidence pointed to a
striking in 1858 rather than ^{the} 1834-5 ^{period},
but that the dies were prepared in the
1834-1835 period. The primary reason for
that view were that those coins have
characteristics of the 1858 restrikes of the
Class II and Class III 1804 dollars;
that the 1801, 1802 and 1803 proof dollars
+ 1807/1 ... 1811

Collette Winn

532-0572

Chapter 13

of Reblanis is the

de cul

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16th
century

Folger has

Sir Thomas
charl

1666 Edition

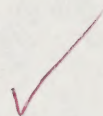
Works of Reblanis

Winn 1640

5⁰⁰
1⁵⁰

photography
dept 16

Anne Muchoney



Houghton library

Jenny
Rathbun

617 495 2440

has 1653 edition

1694 edition

1979 death of Partridge.

Aaron

617 498 2124.
room

Joshua

617 498 6432

~~Cabot~~ House

Room H 401 Whitman

60 Linnean St

Cambridge MA

02138

1
The Grave-diggers Scene from Hamlet
— New Proof of ~~the~~ ^{its} True Meaning —

The first ~~translation~~ ^{into English} of ~~the~~ ^{the} first book of Rabelais, was
~~A translation of Gargantua~~ ^{the first book of Rabelais}, was
~~the first book of~~ published in London in 1653.
It was written by ~~who~~ ^{who} translated the ~~first three books~~ ^{the second and third}
books which were published in 1664 ^{along with the first book} after Vignault's death.
Pierre Antoine Motteux (1660-1718) ~~edited~~ ^{edited} the
Vignault translation of Gargantua ~~and~~ ^{as well}
adding his own translation of the 4th and 5th books
of Rabelais in ~~the~~ 1694 London publication.
Therefore there are differences in the 1653 and the
1694 translations.
~~The first book was~~ ^{in the 1664 printing was the same as}
~~the first book~~ ^{identical to} the 1653 printing.